

DAWN MALLOW
3231 Allen Parkway # 3101
Houston, TX 77019

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Donna Shalala
Secretary
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing to urge you to retain prominent, permanent, and precise labels for foods treated with radiation. In addition, I urge you to provide a poster in plain view of the display for food that is not packaged. I would like to know if the food in the grocery store has been irradiated, so that I can avoid it.

There have not been long-term studies on the health effects of food irradiation. Tests have shown that irradiation causes chemical changes in food. These chemical changes may create carcinogens. Also, irradiation kills beneficial bacteria that serve as a warning because they cause food to emit an odor when it is spoiled. In addition, irradiation may cause cosmetic and nutritional changes in food. Regardless of all these issues, my opinion is that irradiated food should always be labeled in the United States so that consumers can be aware and can decide what to put in their bodies for themselves. I feel that any food that something has been done to out of the ordinary (such as irradiated or GE food) should be labeled.

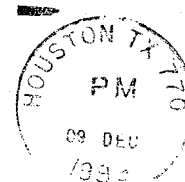
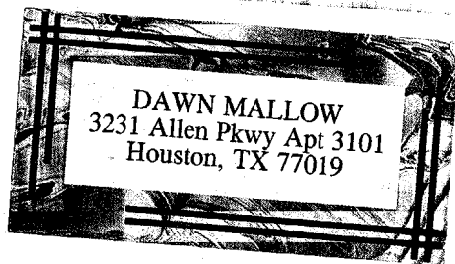
I hope that you will defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,
Dawn Mallow
Dawn Mallow

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